


<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/031,207	BAKKE, STIG	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
James M Hewitt	3679		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/23/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 5-10, 12-18, 20, 4 and 11 renumbered as 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☒ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |

  
5/13/04

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Chance Hardie on 5/10/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1 line 13, the phrase "being formed to cooperate" has been replaced with --having a second internal threaded surface, spaced in a direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe end portion from said internal conically extending threaded circumferential surface, and cooperating--.

In claim 1 line 14, the period has been replaced with --, wherein at the end located the farthest from said end piece with the socket-like connecting element, the outer adapter and connector sleeve is formed with an inward annular flange defining a sleeve bore section of a diameter generally corresponding to the outer diameter of the pipe.--.

Claim 3 has been canceled.

In claim 4 line 11, "the threaded sleeve bore" has been replaced with --a second internally threaded bore wall portion of the elongate adapter sleeve--.

In claim 4 line 21, "a free" has been replaced with --the second--.

In claim 4 line 25, "free" has been replaced with --second--.

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In claim 7 line 1, "6" has been replaced with --4--.

In claim 8 line 1, "7" has been replaced with --5--.

In claim 9 line 1, "6" has been replaced with --4--.

In claim 10 line 9, the period has been replaced with--, wherein the coupling member is formed with an inward annular flange defining a coupling bore with a diameter generally corresponding to the outside diameter of the tubular.--.

In claim 11 line 5, the phrase "an end portion of the tubular" has been replaced with --the tubular end portion--.

In claim 11 line 7, the phrase "the end portion of the tubular" has been replaced with --the tubular end portion--.

In claim 11 line 11, the phrase --until a second tapered internally threaded bore of the coupling member projects axially beyond the inner sleeve-- has been inserted after "member".

In claim 11 line 14, the phrase --until an end of the coupling member abuts an annular stop surface of the connecting member-- has been inserted after "member".

In claim 12 line 1, "10" has been replaced with --8--.

In claim 13 line 1, "10" has been replaced with --8--.

In claim 14 line 1, "13" has been replaced with --10--.

In claim 15 line 1, "10" has been replaced with --8--.

In claim 16 line 1, "15" has been replaced with --12--.

In claim 17 line 1, "16" has been replaced with --13--.

In claim 18 line 1, "10" has been replaced with --8--.

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Claim 19 has been canceled.

In claim 20 line 1, "19" has been replaced with --8--.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, singly or in combination, a connector or assembly as claimed in detail in claims 1 and 10 respectively, or a method establishing the connection and securing of a pipe end portion or a method for securing a tubular end portion to a connector as claimed in detail in claims 4 and 11 respectively.

The closest prior art includes: Itoya (US 3,972,547) and Pearson (US 1,823,061).

With respect to claim 1, Itoya fails to teach or fairly suggest that the outer adapter and connector sleeve includes a second internal threaded surface, spaced in a direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe end portion, from said internal conically extending threaded circumferential surface, and cooperating with a threaded jacket portion of a socket-like connecting element formed on an end piece of the connecting device. Pearson fails to teach or fairly suggest that at the end located the farthest from said end piece with the socket-like connecting element, the outer adapter and connector sleeve is formed with an inward annular flange defining a sleeve bore section of a diameter generally corresponding to the outer diameter of the pipe.

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With respect to claim 4, Itoya fails to teach or fairly suggest that the elongate adapter sleeve includes a conical inner surface that is threaded and a second internally threaded bore wall portion, and that the socket-like connecting element of the end piece is engaged with the second internally threaded bore wall portion until the free end of the elongate sleeve abuts the annular stop surface. Pearson fails to teach that the end piece comprises an externally threaded conically extending socket-like element, and that the socket-like connecting element of the end piece is engaged with the second internally threaded bore wall portion until the free end of the elongate sleeve abuts the annular stop surface.

With respect to claim 10, Itoya fails to teach or fairly suggest an inner sleeve having a tapered threaded outer surface, a coupling member having a tapered threaded inner surface which engages the outer surface of the inner sleeve, and a connecting member having a tapered threaded end portion for engaging the inner surface of the coupling member. Pearson fails to teach or fairly suggest that at the end located the farthest from said end piece with the socket-like connecting element, the outer adapter and connector sleeve is formed with an inward annular flange defining a sleeve bore section of a diameter generally corresponding to the outer diameter of the pipe.

With respect to claim 11, Itoya fails to teach or fairly suggest engaging a tapered external threaded surface of the inner sleeve with a tapered internal threaded bore of the coupling member until a second internally threaded bore of the coupling member projects axially beyond the inner sleeve, and engaging the connecting member into the tapered internal threaded bore until an end of the coupling member abuts an annular

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stop surface of the connecting member. Pearson fails to teach or fairly suggest engaging the connecting member into the tapered internal threaded bore until an end of the coupling member abuts an annular stop surface of the connecting member.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M Hewitt whose telephone number is 703-305-0552. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 930am-600pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J M L', is positioned above the printed name.

James M. Hewitt  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 3600